



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **B-0**
A648

July 2, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes
Director of Public Works

WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION – PLUM CANYON, TRACT NO. 46018 SHAPPEL MONTEVERDE PARTNERSHIPS BOARD MOTION OF JUNE 3, 2003, SYNOPSIS 102-B

In response to the attached motion, following is a report on the current status of Public Works' efforts to implement storm water quality regulations related to the development referenced above which is located along Plum Canyon in the Santa Clarita area.

The size and location of the referenced development qualifies the project for multiagency regulation related to compliance with provisions of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) of the Federal Clean Water Act. The agencies involved include the County of Los Angeles, the State Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Under NPDES regulations, developers are required to install temporary and permanent pollution control devices to eliminate the discharge of pollutants to impaired water bodies during the construction of land development projects. The development in question is a multiphased project in which large areas of land have been mass-graded in anticipation of multiple single-family housing projects. This approach leaves the land disturbed and susceptible to erosion due to storm water flows. Under current County regulations enforced by Public Works, the developer must plan for this potential erosion and discharge of sediments year-round. Compliance requires good site planning by the developer's consulting civil engineer and diligence in maintaining onsite pollution control devices year round. Shappel Monteverde partners have complied with the County of Los Angeles NPDES program by submitting and implementing Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans since the inception of this development. Public Works' engineering staff review these plans and regularly inspect the site for compliance as a part of our development regulation duties. Inspections include a pregrade meeting, weekly site

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inspections and pre-storm and post-storm event auditing of the site for potential discharge of sediments and trash to Bouquet Canyon Creek.

Shappel Monteverde, while not always in perfect compliance, continues to work with County staff to implement innovative and logical construction practices in a good faith effort to protect our County water resources. Public Works continues to utilize strong enforcement criteria in dealing with blatant offenders of the Countywide NPDES permit, including imposing fines and filing criminal complaints where necessary with the District Attorney's office.

The County of Los Angeles has taken effective steps in many areas related to reaching the goals of the Clean Water Act through the implementation of the Countywide NPDES permit and other programs spearheaded by Public Works. As you know, Public Works formed a Watershed Management Division, which has been assigned general oversight and reporting authority for Countywide compliance with the NPDES permit. This is the 13th year of County NPDES permit implementation. The permit has been certified and reissued by the RWQCB on three separate occasions authorizing the County to act as the principal permittee for 84 cities within the County. The development community regularly participates in Public Works sponsored committees tasked with research for Best Management Practices for construction site pollution control. Finally, Public Works' staff is trained on the management and control of constructed-related pollutants in conformance with the County NPDES permit.

Public Works continues to strive for excellence in the elimination of pollution in storm water discharges to our natural and man-made water bodies. Our commitment to water quality is identified as a critical strategic issue within the Public Works strategic plan.

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Attach.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Executive Office

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Public Works
Director of Planning

At its meeting held June 3, 2003, the Board took the following action:

102-B

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"In April and May of this year, inspectors with the United States Environmental Protection Agency found insufficient erosion and sediment controls at developments on both sides of Plum Canyon Road in unincorporated Los Angeles County. This action was in addition to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board issuing four violation notices to Shapell Monteverde Partnerships. The failure to adequately control this type of erosion is one of the major causes of water pollution in Los Angeles County."

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried (Supervisor Molina being absent), the Directors of Public Works and Planning were instructed to report back to the Board within 30 days on how protections can be enacted against insufficient erosion and sediment controls at the developments on both sides of Plum Canyon Road in unincorporated Los Angeles County in order to protect the County's valuable water resources in Los Angeles County.

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